

AMENDED CLAIMS

fuile 26 14. (new) A frozen food product dispensing assembly for removing frozen food product from a container, comprising:

a removal portion having first and second sides and sized and configured to be disposed with said first side adjacent the open end of a container extending into the container at said first side, including a retrieval arm on said first side of the removal portion including a leading edge, a trailing edge, and a channel having a first and second end therebetween, said trailing edge projecting deeper into the container than said leading edge, said leading edge and said trailing edge configured to engage frozen food product in the container and to direct a thickness of frozen food product into said channel whereby the thickness of frozen food product is rolled back on itself into a spherical shape as the frozen food product is moved along from said first end of said channel to said second end of said channel as said retrieval arm and the open end of the container are rotated relative to one another, and a collection compartment adjacent said second end of said channel having an open side directed towards said second side of said removal portion, at least a partially closed portion directed towards said first side of said removal portion having an interior wall, and an opening thereinto from said channel of said retrieval arm, whereby the frozen food product engaged by said retrieval arm as said retrieval arm and the container are rotated relative to one another is fed through said opening into said collection compartment.

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15 14. (new) The frozen food product dispensing assembly of claim 1 further comprising:

a dispensing portion including a collection component having a shape generally conformable to said interior wall of said collection compartment and positionable during its operation to

generally abut at least a portion of said interior wall, whereby frozen food product is deposited into said collection component after being fed through said opening of said collection compartment, said dispensing portion operable to engage frozen food product deposited into said collection component and to expel the frozen food product from said collection component through said open side of said collection compartment, and an operator actuatable assembly connected to said dispensing portion and responsive to operator input to effect operation of said dispensing portion to position said collection component relative to said interior wall of said closed side of said collection compartment and to engage and expel the frozen food product collected in said collection component.

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(new) The assembly of claim 1¹⁴ wherein said retrieval arm is spirally shaped.

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(new) The assembly of claim 1¹⁴ wherein said removal portion and said collection

compartment comprise an integral unit.

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(new) The assembly of claim 4¹⁴ wherein said integral unit is a molded plastic unit.

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(new) The assembly of claim 2¹⁴ wherein said collection component includes a flexible member connected along at least a portion of its periphery to said interior wall of said collection compartment to abut said interior wall when in a static condition, whereby the frozen food product fed into said collection compartment as said retrieval arm and the open end of the container are rotated relative to one another is deposited in said collection component in

engagement with said flexible member when in its static condition, said flexible member thereafter operable to expel the deposited frozen food product from said collection component.

Rule

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(new) The assembly of claim 1⁴ wherein said assembly is rotated and the frozen food product container is held stationary.

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(new) The assembly of claim 1⁴ wherein the frozen food product container is rotated and said assembly is held stationary.

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(new) The assembly of claim 1⁴ wherein said assembly and the open end of the container are moved towards one another, whereby said retrieval arm of said assembly remains engaged with the topmost layer of frozen food product in the container.

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(new) The assembly of claim 1⁴ wherein said leading edge of said retrieval arm is a knife shaped edge.

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(new) The assembly of claim 1⁴ wherein said channel tapers whereby the narrower end of said channel is adjacent the side of the frozen food container.

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(new) The assembly of claim 1⁴ wherein said channel is concave.

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(new) The assembly of claim 1⁴ wherein said channel is generally semi-circular.

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14. (new) The assembly of claim 1 wherein said removal portion includes a heating element.

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25. (new) The assembly of claim 1 wherein said dispensing portion includes a heating element.

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26. (new) The assembly of claim 1 wherein a non-stick coating is placed on said leading edge, said trailing edge, said channel, and said collection component.

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27. (new) An ice cream dispensing device comprising a removal portion including a upper side configured to be disposed generally perpendicular to and extending across at least a portion of the open end of an ice cream container, a retrieval arm portion depending from said upper side to project into an ice cream container and to extend generally spirally across at least a portion of the open end of the ice cream container, said retrieval arm having an outer end, an inner end, leading and trailing edges extending laterally along said retrieval arm between said outer and inner ends thereof, an elongated channel disposed and extending laterally along said retrieval arm between said leading and trailing edges, and a collection compartment at said inner end of said retrieval arm, said trailing edge configured to project into an ice cream container to a greater depth than said leading edge, said trailing and leading edges and channel therebetween defining a generally C-shaped cross-section for said channel, said cross-section of said channel expanding along its length from said outer end of said retrieval arm towards said collection compartment at said inner end of said retrieval arm, said collection compartment including a closed side adjacent the terminus of said trailing edge, an entry opening thereinto from said

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channel, an interior wall, and an exit opening at said upper side of said removal portion, the interior of said collection compartment having a generally spherical shape, said removal portion being rotatable relative to the ice cream container as the retrieval arm portion is brought into contact with ice cream in the ice cream container whereby the relative movement of said removal portion and the ice cream container thereafter causes said trailing edge to cut into a layer of ice cream to feed the cut layer of ice cream into said channel to roll therein and therealong to said collection compartment, and an operator controlled dispensing portion responsive to operator actions to effect the ejection of ice cream from said collection compartment through said exit opening at said upper side of said removal portion.

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18. (new) The ice cream dispensing device of claim 17³⁰ including a mounting assembly for mounting the ice cream container and said ice cream dispensing device relative to one another for rotational movement.

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19. (new) The ice cream dispensing device of claim 17³⁰ wherein said dispensing portion includes a member having a movable portion sized and configured to be brought into close abutment with at least a portion of said interior wall of said collection compartment and an operator actuatable mechanism associated therewith and responsive to actuation by a user to effect ejection of ice cream from said collection compartment by movement under operator control of said movable portion of said member into and away from close abutment with at least a portion of said interior wall of said collection compartment.

*rule
126* 33 (new) The ice cream dispensing device of claim 19 wherein said upper side of said removal portion includes a disc-like portion sized and dimensioned to cover a substantial portion of the open end of the ice cream container.

C / 34 21 (new) The ice cream dispensing device of claim 20 wherein said collection compartment is disposed below said upper side of said removal portion and said dispensing portion includes a mounting portion disposed above said disc-like portion of said retrieving portion and operatively connected to said movable portion of said dispensing portion to effect movement of said movable portion into and out of said collection compartment.

35 22 (new) The ice cream dispensing device of claim 17 wherein said trailing edge has a knife-like front edge for engaging and cutting the ice cream in the container.
